

N E W S R E L E A S E

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California's Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 5.8 Percent **Payroll Employment Down 25,000 Jobs**

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in December, unchanged from a revised 5.8 percent in November, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in December 2003, California's unemployment rate was 6.5 percent.

The annual average unemployment rate in California in 2004 was 6.1 percent. The annual average in 2003 was 6.8 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California declined by 25,000 jobs over the month, for a total of 14,568,900.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in December was 16,723,000. This was a decrease of 22,000 from November, but up 376,000 from the employment total in December of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,022,000 – a decline of 10,000 over the month, and down by 118,000 compared with December of last year.

Of the unemployed, 436,400 were laid off, 87,100 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 394,832 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the December survey week. This compares with 390,428 last month and 510,274 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 48,436 in December 2004, compared with 52,333 in November and 45,443 in December of last year.

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,568,900 in December, a net loss of 25,000 jobs since the November survey. This followed a gain of 18,300 jobs (as revised) in November.

Six of the categories (**natural resources and mining; construction; manufacturing; financial activities; professional and business services; and educational and health services**) added jobs over the month, gaining 12,400 jobs. The construction industry showed the largest gain, up by 5,300 jobs. Five categories (**trade, transportation and utilities; information; leisure and hospitality; other services and government**) reported job declines this month, down 37,400 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 16,400 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (December 2003 to December 2004), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 152,300 jobs (up 1.1 percent).

Eight industry divisions (**natural resources and mining; construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; and leisure and hospitality**) posted job gains over the year, adding 177,300 jobs. On a numerical basis, professional and business services showed the strongest employment growth, adding 65,400 jobs (a 3.1 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, construction showed the strongest gain, up 4.8 percent (adding 38,000 jobs).

Three categories (**information; other services; and government**) posted job declines over the year, down 25,000 jobs. On a numerical basis, government employment showed the largest decline, down by 17,200 jobs (a decline of 0.7 percent).

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (**NOT** SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **trade, transportation and utilities** showed the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 23,400 jobs. Most of the gains were in retail trade, which added 25,200 jobs. **Information** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 10,800 jobs. Most of the losses were in the motion picture and sound recording sector, which declined by 10,200 jobs.

The **professional and business services** industries reported the largest gain over the year, up 66,200 jobs. The largest gains were in the administrative and support services sector, primarily in employment services, which was up by 39,200 jobs. The largest decrease over the year was in **government**, which was down by 17,500 jobs. This included a loss of 2,000 jobs in federal government employment, 8,100 jobs in state government, and 7,400 jobs in local government.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

Industrial Classification	December 2004 (prelim.)	November 2004	December 2003	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	14,568.9	14,593.9	14,416.6	1.1
Natural resources and mining	21.7	21.6	21.4	1.4
Construction	837.6	832.3	799.6	4.8
Manufacturing	1,530.8	1,530.0	1,527.5	0.2
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,748.7	2,765.1	2,724.5	0.9
Information	459.3	470.1	464.7	-1.2
Financial activities	906.2	904.0	896.8	1.0
Professional and business services	2,199.3	2,195.4	2,133.9	3.1
Educational and health services	1,571.2	1,571.1	1,554.6	1.1
Leisure and hospitality	1,418.5	1,422.7	1,398.4	1.4
Other services	500.6	502.4	503.0	-0.5
Government*	2,375.0	2,379.2	2,392.2	-0.7
Agriculture	384.8	385.7	373.5	3.0

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

	December 2004	November 2004	October 2004	December 2003
Civilian labor force ^a	17,745,000	17,777,000	17,751,000	17,487,000
Total civilian employment	16,723,000	16,745,000	16,718,000	16,347,000
Unemployment	1,022,000	1,032,000	1,033,000	1,140,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.5
US seasonally adjusted rate %	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.7

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	December 2004	November 2004	October 2004	December 2003
Civilian labor force ^a	17,684,000	17,801,000	17,829,000	17,437,000
Total civilian employment	16,725,000	16,786,000	16,821,000	16,360,000
Unemployment	959,000	1,015,000	1,008,000	1,077,000
Unadjusted rate %	5.4	5.7	5.7	6.2

^aLabor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

**MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
DECEMBER 2004 (Preliminary); 2003 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	17,684,000	16,724,600	959,500	5.4%
ALAMEDA	751,000	717,000	34,000	4.5%
ALPINE	620	580	30	5.2%
AMADOR	15,680	14,940	740	4.7%
BUTTE	92,700	86,200	6,500	7.0%
CALAVERAS	17,330	16,160	1,170	6.8%
COLUSA	8,330	6,140	2,190	26.3%
CONTRA COSTA	522,400	501,400	21,000	4.0%
DEL NORTE	9,660	8,970	700	7.2%
EL DORADO	83,900	80,000	3,800	4.6%
FRESNO	393,100	344,400	48,700	12.4%
GLENN	9,810	8,640	1,180	12.0%
HUMBOLDT	60,700	57,400	3,300	5.5%
IMPERIAL	60,300	48,500	11,900	19.7%
INYO	7,200	6,770	430	6.0%
KERN	305,100	268,900	36,200	11.9%
KINGS	49,880	43,890	5,990	12.0%
LAKE	24,270	22,040	2,230	9.2%
LASSEN	11,260	10,420	840	7.5%
LOS ANGELES	4,872,800	4,597,500	275,300	5.7%
MADERA	56,400	50,200	6,200	11.0%
MARIN	131,200	128,000	3,200	2.4%
MARIPOSA	6,970	6,390	590	8.4%
MENDOCINO	43,770	41,070	2,710	6.2%
MERCED	92,800	80,000	12,800	13.8%
MODOC	4,380	4,010	370	8.5%
MONO	8,800	8,400	400	4.5%
MONTEREY	191,000	166,400	24,600	12.9%
NAPA	71,900	68,300	3,600	5.1%
NEVADA	48,380	46,500	1,880	3.9%
ORANGE	1,607,600	1,564,200	43,400	2.7%
PLACER	143,500	138,000	5,500	3.8%
PLUMAS	10,330	9,220	1,110	10.7%
RIVERSIDE	850,500	809,600	40,900	4.8%
SACRAMENTO	659,000	627,900	31,200	4.7%
SAN BENITO	28,310	25,870	2,440	8.6%
SAN BERNARDINO	905,600	864,900	40,700	4.5%
SAN DIEGO	1,520,900	1,472,800	48,200	3.2%
SAN FRANCISCO	403,600	385,400	18,200	4.5%
SAN JOAQUIN	283,600	257,000	26,600	9.4%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	121,900	118,100	3,800	3.1%
SAN MATEO	372,100	361,000	11,200	3.0%
SANTA BARBARA	216,500	207,700	8,800	4.1%
SANTA CLARA	855,800	816,000	39,800	4.7%
SANTA CRUZ	138,100	126,600	11,500	8.3%
SHASTA	84,300	78,000	6,300	7.5%
SIERRA	1,370	1,190	180	12.9%
SISKIYOU	17,490	15,480	2,020	11.5%
SOLANO	212,800	202,500	10,400	4.9%
SONOMA	259,700	250,300	9,400	3.6%
STANISLAUS	215,800	193,100	22,800	10.5%
SUTTER	35,900	30,800	5,100	14.3%
TEHAMA	26,490	24,750	1,740	6.6%
TRINITY	4,930	4,280	640	13.1%
TULARE	175,500	149,500	25,900	14.8%
TUOLUMNE	23,530	21,910	1,620	6.9%
VENTURA	434,800	415,100	19,700	4.5%
YOLO	101,900	96,700	5,200	5.1%
YUBA	20,500	17,900	2,600	12.9%